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Hidden Valley Trail System

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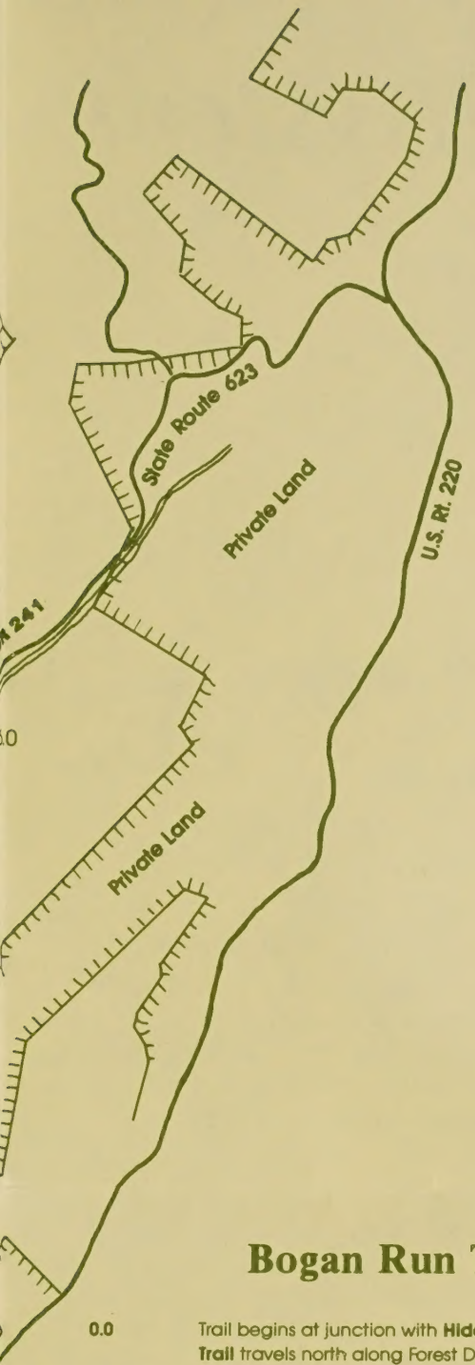
Warm Springs Ranger District

George Washington National Forest

Hidden Valley Trail System



Bogan Run Trail

0.0 Trail begins at junction with **Hidden Valley Trail. Bogan Run Trail** travels north along Forest Development Road 241. **Hidden Valley Trail** turns right.

0.1 Trail crosses bridge over Jackson River and follows Forest Development Road 241.

0.2 Warwick Mansion may be seen to the left. **Rock Shelter Trail,** a side trail to the right, follows Forest Development Road 481-A along the Jackson River.

Rock Shelter Trail makes an excellent circuit hike, joining **Hidden Valley Trail** 2.3 miles to the northeast at a swinging bridge crossing the Jackson River.

0.3 Behind the Warwick Mansion, a spring can be found just down the rise. Water is untested and should be treated before use.

1.5 Trail turns left, leaving FDR 241, and climbs Back Creek Mountain.

2.5 Trail travels to the top of Back Creek Mountain, elevation 3,000 feet, and Back Creek Mountain Road.

3.8 Trail widens into an old logging road.

5.7 Stands of scarlet and chestnut oak line the trail as it winds to the right.

6.6 Trail crosses a small stream, then leaves footpath and continues on an old logging road.

7.0 Trail crosses another small stream.

7.2 Side trail enters main trail from the right.

7.5 Trail ends at a wooden gate at State Route 600.

Hidden Valley Trail

0.0 **Hidden Valley Trail** begins at Hidden Valley Campground

0.1 Trail turns left and follows Forest Development Road 241 north.

0.5 Trail junction—**Hidden Valley Trail** turns right; **Bogan Run Trail** continues north, following FDR 241.

0.6 Trail passes a metal gate, then a barn and a house on the right.

1.4 Junction with administrative road on right. This road is closed to the public.

2.0 Trail passes through a wooden gate into a forest area.

2.6 Rhododendron may be seen growing along the rocky slopes to the right. From the left of the trail there is a sharp drop to the Jackson River, which the trail now follows for its final 3.6 miles.

2.8 Intersection with **Muddy Run Trail** to the right. Main trail crosses Muddy Run.

3.0 Trail climbs 100 feet and follows ledge overlooking the Jackson River. The banks of the river are shaded by sycamore, birch and maple.

3.4 **Hidden Valley trail** crosses the Jackson River over a swinging bridge to a stand of hemlock and white pine. This is the first of three river crossings.

Beyond the bridge, the **Rock Shelter Trail** travels 2.3 miles west on the opposite side of the Jackson River to **Bogan Run Trail.** This side trail makes an excellent circuit hike back to Hidden Valley Campground. It passes an old Indian excavation site and, at the intersection with **Bogan Run Trail,** the Warwick Mansion.

4.3 Good view of bend in the Jackson River.

4.7 Many old growth hemlock trees overhang the river, providing shade along the trail.

5.6 Trail crosses Jackson River.

5.8 Hemlock and rhododendron line the trail. Rock formations may be seen on both sides.

6.2 Trail ends at Forest Development Road 241. During spring floods, the river crossing in this area may be impassable.

Muddy Run Trail

0.0 **Muddy Run Trail** begins at 2.5 mile mark of **Hidden Valley Trail** and follows Muddy Run.

0.3 Trail passes through wildlife clearing. Deer may sometimes be spotted here, as the trail winds through numerous hawthorne bushes.

0.4 Trail narrows, becoming a rocky footpath, crosses Muddy Run, then continues climbing on a gentle grade.

0.7 Trail crosses stream. Large, flat rock formations jut out from the mountain slopes and border the stream.

0.8 Muddy Run may be seen splashing over small waterfall. Hemlock and pine trees border the stream.

1.1 Trail ends at National Forest boundary.

Hidden Valley Trail System

The Hidden Valley Trail System combines natural beauty with local history for both the day hiker and overnight camper. The trails meander along the Jackson River, passing through rolling meadows, near rocky mountain ledges and through small game clearings. A pre-Civil War plantation house can be found within the trail system, along with an old family cemetery.

The Hidden Valley Trail System includes the main trail, Hidden Valley Trail, and two side trails, Bogan Run Trail and Muddy Run Trail.

The 5.7-mile Hidden Valley Trail follows Gorge Road and runs parallel to the Jackson River. The overnight hiker can find good primitive camping areas along the river. Hemlock and white pine trees can be seen from the swinging bridge that spans the Jackson River as it winds through this sheltered valley.

Bogan Run Trail travels by the historic Warwick Mansion and an old family cemetery. This 7.5-mile trail crosses small streams and tops Back Creek Mountain.

Muddy Run Trail travels 1.1 miles along Muddy Run, passing through a wildlife clearing and over rocky footpaths and streams.

The Hidden Valley Trail System is located in the Warm Springs Ranger District of the George Washington National Forest. This area is nestled in Bath County in a quiet, pastoral valley that includes a large, clear stream that supports both native and stocked trout. The rolling landscape that surrounds the river includes peaceful meadows that are backed by mountain ranges on either side. Deer and turkey are plentiful in the area, along with small game animals such as grouse and squirrel.

The trail system begins at a 30-unit campground, which includes rest room facilities and water, and is open all year. Parking is available at the site.

How to Get There....

To Beginning of the Trail:

From Warm Springs, take State Route 39 west for 1.4 miles. Turn right onto State Route 621 and travel 1 mile to the intersection with Forest Development Road 241. Turn left onto FDR 241 and travel 1.8 miles to the Hidden Valley Recreation Area.

To End of the Trail:

From Warm Springs, travel north 9.5 miles on State Route 220. Turn left onto State Route 623, and travel 2.8 miles to the Poor Farm. Follow the gravel road through the flat, grassy field. This abandoned farm area provides a good primitive camping site. Limited parking is available along the gravel road.

HISTORY

Hidden Valley is rich in local history, with relics dating back to early Indian inhabitants. An archeological excavation of artifacts along the northern side of the Jackson River has indicated the presence of Indians in the valley as early as 6,500 B.C.

Hidden Valley was first settled by Europeans in the 1740s when a small cabin was built on Muddy River. The land was fertile, providing generous crops for early settlers, who struggled to carve a home in this wilderness valley. According to early records, this settlement was burned and plundered in 1754 by the French and Indians.

In 1788, Hidden Valley was resettled by Jacob Warwick, and his property was handed down to his grandson, Judge James Woods Warwick. The family's plantation home, known as Warwickton, was built by slaves in 1848 with bricks formed with mud gathered from the banks of the Jackson River. The plantation is said to have flourished until 1861, when Virginia became engulfed in the Civil War. Judge Warwick's two sons joined the Confederate Soldiers in the Bath Squadron and served under Stonewall Jackson. Judge Warwick died in 1896, his wife following him in 1898. Both are buried in the small family cemetery overlooking their plantation home.

Warwick Mansion is considered an unpretentious plantation house typical of its period, and is listed with the National Register of Historic Homes.

Trail Etiquette

Limit Size of Group

Limit hiking group to a number that a leader can handle safely, and that won't damage backcountry sites. One leader is recommended for every eight hikers.

Preserve Nature's Ground Cover

Bring tent poles and ground pads. Help preserve natural beauty by not cutting tree limbs. Pick a campsite that needs no clearing of vegetation or ditching around tent.

Pack It In, Pack It Out

Go one step further, and carry out trash that less thoughtful people have left behind.

Use Portable Stove

Many popular areas don't have enough wood for every camper to use a wood fire. Follow stove manufacturer's instructions for safe use.

If You Do Have a Campfire

Keep it safe and small. Shelter fire from high winds; keep it away from brush, logs and tree trunks. Clear the ground to mineral soil. Make sure fire is **dead out** before leaving.

Keep Water Supply Clean

Don't wash in springs or streams. Wash yourself and dishes away from and below all sources of drinking water. Dispose of waste water away from springs, streams or lakes. Boil or treat water before drinking.

Disposing of Human Waste

Stay at least 100 feet from any water source. Dig a small hole about 8 inches deep. Cover with loose soil and sod.

Warm Springs Ranger District

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